

FECN11 CWIS 031800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR DECEMBER ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE U.S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 03 DECEMBER 2003.

#### Lake Superior

Below normal temperatures were reported during the last month over the western portion of Lake Superior while near to slightly above normal prevailed for the eastern portion of the lake. Thin lake ice was present in the northern portion of Black Bay.

Forecast ice conditions from December 03rd to mid-December.

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the first week of December with near to slightly above normal temperatures during the second week of December. New lake ice will develop in western Nipigon Bay by the end of the first week of December. By the second week in December some new ice will begin to form in western and northern Thunder Bay with ice thickening to medium lake ice in Black Bay. Ice will also form in Chequamegon Bay during the second week as well. Elsewhere generally open water conditions will prevail.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-December to December 31st.

Near to above normal temperatures will continue during the second half of December. As a result slow to moderate ice growth is expected over the period. The ice in Thunder Bay will thicken to thin and medium lake ice and expand to cover most of the bay by the end of the third week of December. Ice in Black and Nipigon Bay will become consolidated by the third week while new lake ice will form around near Duluth, the Apostle Islands, Keweenaw Bay and the coastal area around Whitefish Bay during the last week of December. The rest of the lake will be open water.

#### Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Above normal temperatures were reported during the last month over the forecast area. As a result generally open water conditions prevailed over the area.

Forecast ice conditions from December 03rd to mid-December.

Slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the first week of December with near to slightly above normal for the second week. No significant ice will form over the period except for some new lake ice in sheltered bays around Georgian Bay, the North Channel and in the St Mary's River around the middle of the month.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-December to December 31st.

Near to above normal temperatures are forecast for the second half of December. As a result slow to moderate ice growth is expected. The St Mary's River, most of the north channel, the northwestern section of Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinac, most of Saginaw Bay and the shallow bays in northeastern Georgian Bay will have new with some thin lake ice during the fourth week of December. Elsewhere mainly open water.

## Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures over the last month were above to much above normal. Open water conditions were prevalent over the entire area.

Forecast ice conditions from December 03rd to mid-December.

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast over the area during the first half of December. Mainly open water condition with little ice growth is expected during the first half of December.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-December to December 31st.

Near to above normal temperatures will characterize the second half of December. Some new lake ice growth will begin during the fourth week of December over Lake St Clair as well as the western basin. The ice will generally be concentrated along the shoreline. Elsewhere, mostly open water conditions will prevail.

## Lake Ontario

Above normal temperatures in November has delayed the formation of new lake ice.

Forecast ice conditions from December 03rd to mid-December.

Slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the first two week of December. Open water and ice free conditions will prevail during the first half of December.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-December to December 31st.

Some new lake ice will begin to form during the fourth week of December in the Bay of Quinte. Otherwise open water to ice free will prevail.

## Lake Michigan

Above normal temperatures were observed over the entire area during the month of November. Open water to ice free covered all regions.

Forecast ice conditions from December 03rd to mid-December.

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are expected over the next 2 weeks. Little in the way of ice will develop except in some of the sheltered bays of the Green Bay area where some new lake ice could form near the middle of the month.

Forecast ice conditions from mid-December to December 31st.

Near to slightly above normal temperatures are expected during the period. New with some thin lake ice will develop in the southern half of Green Bay and all of the Little and Big Bay de Noc during the fourth week of December. Some new lake ice will develop

along the northeast shore of the lake just west of the entrance to the Straits of Mackinac, by the end of the month.

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 December, 2003

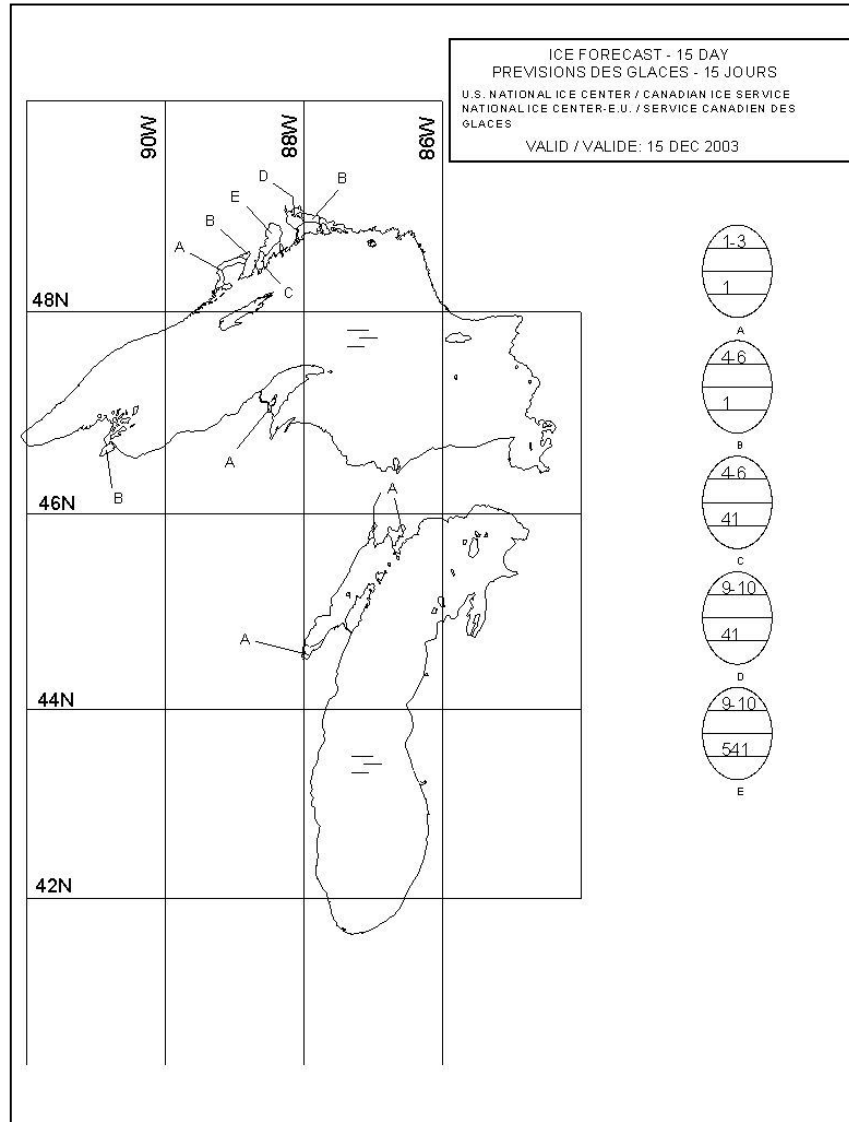


Figure 2: Ice Forecast, Western Great Lakes– 01 January, 2004

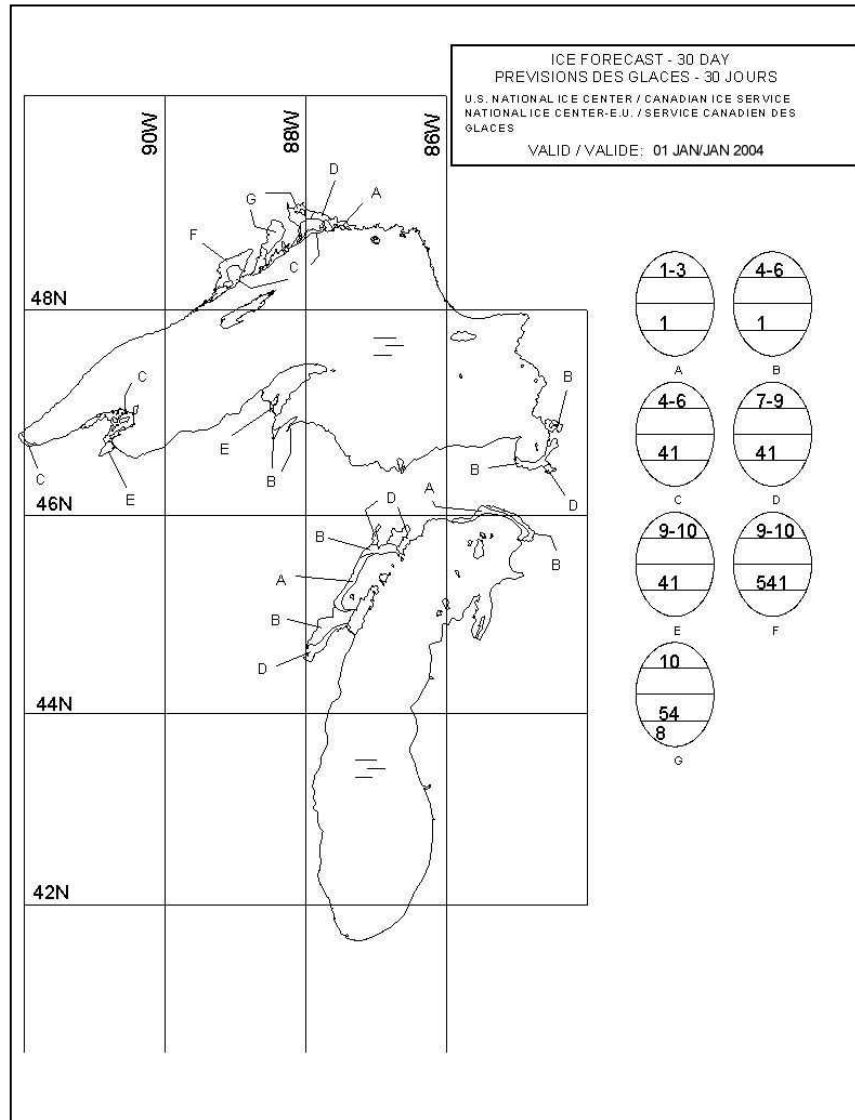


Figure 3: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 December, 2003

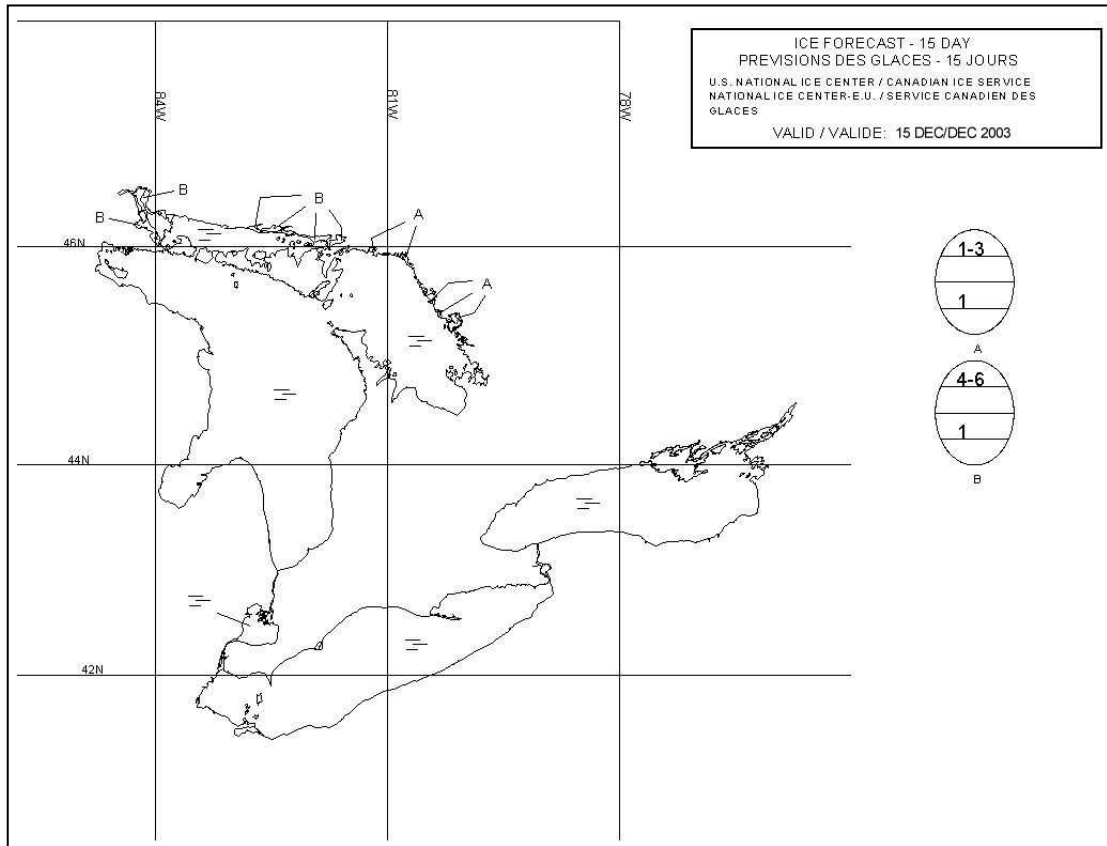
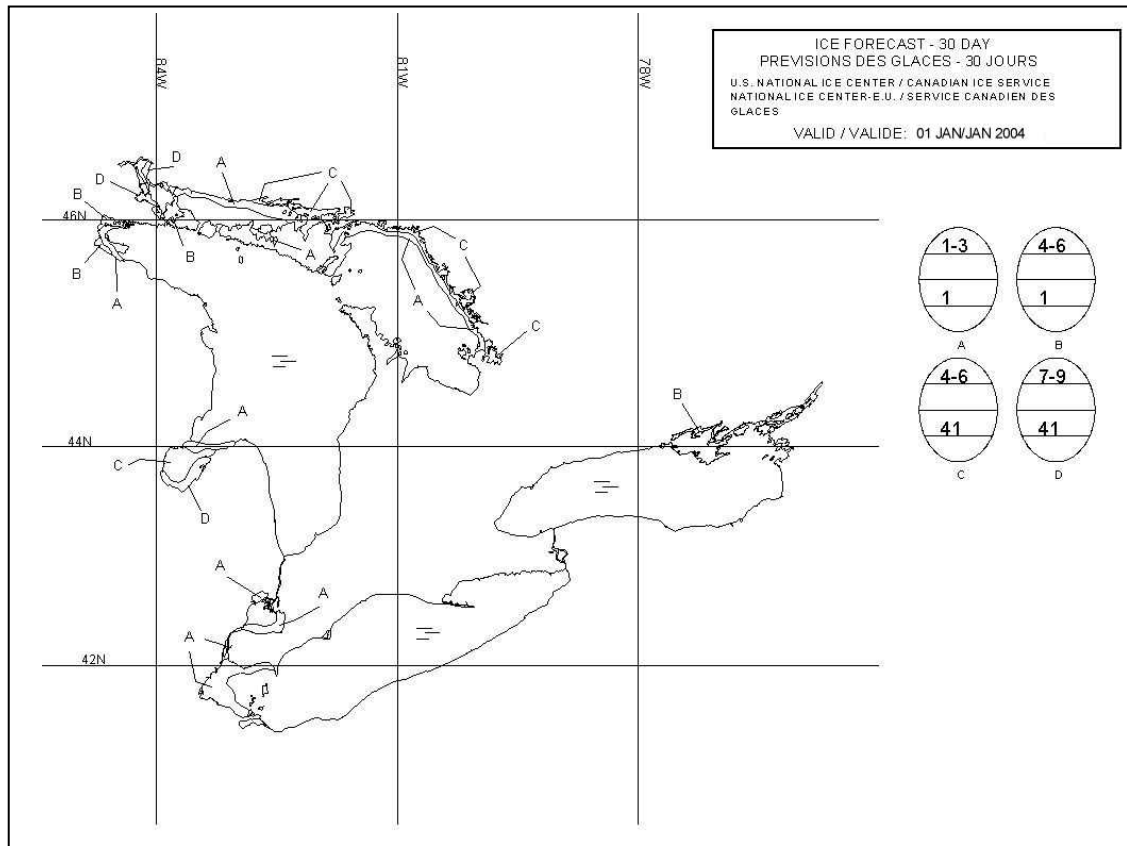


Figure 4: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 01 January, 2004



THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 18 DECEMBER 2003.  
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